

Message Text

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ACTION ITC-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 FTC-01 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10

OIC-02 /139 W

----- 088885

P R 021733Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5107

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK, US, EC

SUBJECT: USITC INVESTIGATION OF TELEVISION RECEIVERS
FROM JAPAN

REF: (A) STATE 206627; (B) LONDON 13124

1. UK DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (DOT) OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED
THEY ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH ITC INVESTIGATORS, BUT
HAVE AGREED TO AN APPOINTMENT ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 7

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WITH HEAD OF JAPANESE DESK, CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS. DOT'S

VIEW IS THAT THE COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EC'S COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY AND IS THEREFORE THE APPROPRIATE "GOVERNMENTAL" AGENCY TO BE ANSWERING MANY OF OUR QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED, DOT OFFICIALS APPEAR TO BE CONCERNED THAT THE INFORMATION COLLECTED MIGHT SOMEHOW END UP BEING USED AGAINST THE UK OR THAT AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT MIGHT BE SET BY THE VISIT.

2. SEPTEMBER 2 FINANCIAL TIMES CARRIED A SHORT ARTICLE BY DAVID BELL FROM WASHINGTON ENTITLED "ROW OVER TV IMPORTS 'INQUIRY'". MAIN THEME OF ARTICLE IS THE "DIS-AGREEMENT" BETWEEN ITC AND TREASURY THAT WAS "SPARKED OFF" BY ITC "ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SENDING TWO INVESTIGATORS TO TALK TO BRITISH AND OTHER EUROPEAN TELEVISION PRODUCERS ABOUT THE PRICING AND OTHER POLICIES OF JAPANESE TELEVISION MANUFACTURERS." BELL REPORTS "THE TREASURY IS NOT CONVINCED THAT THERE IS ANY REAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THIS (CASE) AND DUMPING, WHICH REMAINS SPECIFICALLY ITS RESPONSIBILITY." HE SAYS ITC COUNTERS THAT "IT'S INVESTIGATION WILL BE SEEKING EVIDENCE ONLY OF A POSSIBLE WRITTEN OR NON-WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPANESE MAKERS TO KEEP PRICES ARTIFICIALLY LOW AND POSSIBLY TO DIVIDE CERTAIN MARKETS BETWEEN THEM." BELL CONCLUDES THAT THE EC COMMISSION AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE NOW IN SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES. "THE COMMISSION APPEARS LIKELY TO DO LITTLE MORE THAN TALK TO THE INVESTIGATORS IF THEY COME, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO HAVE ONLY UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THEM."

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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